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of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H .

for 1939.

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G. R. BRUCE, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health  
and  
School Medical Officer.

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1. P R E F A C E

Health Department,  
44, Wellington Square,  
Hastings.

November, 1940.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, AND TO THE ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Health Department for 1939, much curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and somewhat delayed, pending the issue of the necessary statistics from the Registrar General. Arrangements have been made for the preparation of all the usual statistical tables, though not included in the present report, to ensure continuity of records after the war.

The vital statistics for 1939 were generally favourable. The corrected death rate, 11.3 per 1,000 of the population showed a slight rise, as compared with 10.31 in 1938. The birth rate 11.8 compares with 11.1 in 1938. The infantile mortality rate, 27 per 1,000 births, compared with that of 50 for the country, is the lowest yet recorded in Hastings. The maternal mortality, 5 deaths, or 5.9 per 1,000 births, shows an increase from that of 1938, viz. 4 per 1,000 births, though over an average of a few years the rate for Hastings compares favourably with that of the country. The tuberculosis mortality at .69 per 1,000 continues to decline, though now less rapidly. This particular disease, in view of our experience in the last war, after which its incidence and death rate rose steeply, requires to be watched very closely.

There were no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease in 1939, in spite of the reception in our midst from September of so many children and other evacuees, particularly from London. The most important epidemic, cerebro-spinal fever (or spotted fever) came a little later in 1940, and it may be recorded that our experience was most fortunate; 28 cases, admitted to the Isolation Hospital, all made a good recovery thanks to modern treatment by chemo-therapy and general care and nursing. In the last war the mortality would have been 60 to 70 per cent.

The working of the ordinary peace-time Health Services was profoundly affected by the first four months of the war, September to December 1939.

Firstly, the A.R.P. Casualty Service, one of the great departments of Civil Defence went into action. It had been the duty of the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Department to organise this service with a staff of some 400-500 volunteers including:-

- (1) Five Fixed First Aid Posts and Cleansing Stations, and the Mobile First Aid Post.
- (2) 16 First Aid Parties in five depôts.
- (3) Three Casualty Clearing Hospitals.
- (4) The Emergency Ambulance Service.
- (5) The Emergency Mortuary Service.
- (6) The Casualty Bureau.

Secondly, the emergency hospital service of the Ministry of Health for which the Medical Officer of Health acts as agent. Under this scheme the three local hospitals, the Royal East Sussex, Buchanan and Municipal, as expanded, with over 900 beds, were ready

on the outbreak of war for the reception of patients from evacuation areas (approximately 350 being received), and for local air raid casualties. In addition auxiliary hospitals, (mainly the numerous convalescent homes in the town), had been planned to provide over 800 beds.

Thirdly - All the medical problems of the evacuees - the 3,000 school children, over 100 official and unofficial expectant mothers, and many other mothers and younger children. An Emergency Maternity Home, hostels and billets were arranged for the expectant mothers, cleansing stations for the school children; also special arrangements for their medical inspection and treatment. In general, the policy adopted was that all medical arrangements, available for Hastings mothers, infants and school children, were made available for the evacuees. When necessary, special arrangements were made - additional clinics were opened, and staff obtained; e.g. an extra medical officer, nurses and clerks, and a temporary dental officer. During the same period all the ordinary public health work of the Borough was fully maintained.

I beg to thank the Council, the Chairman and members of the various Committees for their continued support and acknowledge with gratitude the good and loyal work of my staff in these difficult days.

I have the honour to remain,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

- G. R. BRUCE.

2. CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

- Public Health Committee - Councillor A. Honnor.
- Sub Sanatorium etc. Committee - Councillor A. Honnor.
- Education Committee - Alderman F.W. Morgan.
- Children's Care Sub-Committee - Councillor P. Banks.
- Mental Deficiency Committee - Councillor G.S. Cavey.
- Maternity and Child Welfare Committee - Councillor Mrs. A.W. Farnfield
- Housing and Improvements Committee - Councillor Dr. W.E. Jameson, J.P.
- Public Assistance and Sub-Committee - Alderman Burden, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

See list as fully set out in Report of 1938. The following alterations in staff are recorded in 1939.

Name of Officers	Offices Held
K.J. Grant, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health; Deputy School Medical Officer etc. etc
I.M.S. Marshall, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Temporary Assistant Medical Officer
Miss W. C. Rogers	Mental Health Worker.
*Miss E. Bryant	Clerk, School Medical Service.
Miss M. Harman	" " " "
*Miss B. C. Lamb	" School Dental Officer.
Miss H. Siddalls	" " " "
Mrs. L.B. Sargent	Temporary Clerk.

\* Resigned 1939.

3. SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1939.

Area of Borough	.. .. .	7,770 acres.
Population, Census 1931	.. .. .	65,207
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1939 for the purpose of Vital Statistics	.. .. .	64,400 birth-rate 66,480 death-rate
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	.. .. .	20,345
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£782,576
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£3,073

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
Livo Births, 1939	(Legitimate	690	333	357	= 737
	(Illegitimate	47	27	20	
Birth Rate, 1939, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	.. .. .				11.4
Still Births	.. .. .				29
Rate per 1,000 total (alive and still) births.					11.8
Deaths, 1939	.. .. .				1128
Death Rate, 1939, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	(a) crude	.. .. .			16.9
	(b) corrected	.. .. .			11.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 - Puerperal sepsis	3 .. ..	3.5
" 30 - Other Puerperal causes	2 .. ..	2.3
Total	<u>5</u> .. ..	<u>5.9</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	27.0
(b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	27.4
(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	20.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	.. .. .	169
" " Measles (all ages).	.. .. .	...
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).	.. .. .	...
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..		1

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

(1) Population.

The population, census of 1931, was 65,207. For statistical purposes the population, 1939, is given as follows:-

for Birth Rate .. 64,400  
for Death Rate .. 66,480

From September until the end of 1939 the population was considerably increased by evacuated school children, mothers and younger children, mainly from London; the total increase being about 5,000.

(2) Deaths.

Total registered .. 1128 .. males 490, females 638.  
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population .. 16.9  
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of population .. 11.3  
Factor for correction .. .67

(3) Births.

Total net births registered, 737, showing a slight rise from 720 in 1938.

Birth Rate 11.4 per 1,000 of population. There was a deficiency of births of 391 as compared to the total number of deaths.

(4) Main causes of deaths.

(a) Circulatory diseases.

The total deaths were 537, (compared with 475 in 1938,) nearly 50 per cent of the total deaths.

(b) Cancer.

The total deaths were 169, two less than the previous highest total in 1936; the age distribution being:-

<u>Years</u>	<u>Cases.</u>
5-15 ..	1
15-25 ..	7
25-35 ..	17
35-45 ..	37
45-55 ..	60
55-65 ..	47
65-75 ..	
75 + ..	
Total	169

Facilities for treatment at the Voluntary Hospitals and the Municipal Hospital, the use of the small store of radium available at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, the necessity for adequate Deep X-Ray Therapy, have been fully stressed in recent reports. Conferences with the County and other County Borough Authorities in Sussex have taken place with regard to setting up arrangements under the New Cancer Act. It has been decided to postpone any special scheme until after the war.

(c) Respiratory diseases.

Including influenza, but excluding pulmonary tuberculosis, the total deaths from respiratory diseases in 1939 were 134 as compared with 118 in 1938. Influenza, which was responsible for 12 deaths was not epidemic during the year.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death During Year 1939

CAUSES OF DEATH	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of Resuents, whether occurring within or without the District										Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in Institutions in the District		
	All ages		0-1 yrs.		1-2 yrs.		2-5 yrs.		5-15 yrs.			15-25 yrs.	
	ages	0-1 yrs.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-55 yrs.	55-65 yrs.		65-75 yrs.	75 yrs. upwards
All Causes (Certified)	1127	22	1	4	4	11	16	32	71	172	316	478	676
(Uncertified)	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Scarlet Fever	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Diphtheria	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Influenza	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	5	5	3
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	43	--	--	--	--	1	5	11	12	8	5	1	41
(Other tuberculous diseases)	3	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	--	--	2
Syphilis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	169	--	1	1	1	--	--	7	17	37	60	47	112
Diabetes	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	2	2	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	142	--	--	--	--	2	2	2	7	18	46	69	72
Heart Disease	332	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	7	31	95	194	153
Aneurysm	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
(Other Circulatory Diseases)	62	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	12	19	28	22
Bronchitis	38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	6	7	24	12
Pneumonia, (all forms)	87	2	--	1	1	2	--	3	8	18	14	39	66
(Other Respiratory Diseases)	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	5	2	5
Peptic Ulcer	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	4	2	2	9
Diarrhoea etc.	3	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	3
Appendicitis	7	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	1	2	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	3	1	12
Puerperal Sepsis	3	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	2	6	9	14	17
Other Puerperal Causes	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	1	--	--	--	--	4
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations etc.	16	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Suicide	12	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	--	2	4	2	16
(Other Deaths from Violence)	24	1	--	--	--	3	--	3	2	3	7	5	18
(Other Defined Diseases)	108	2	--	2	1	2	3	1	6	20	29	42	90
Totals	1128	22	1	4	4	11	16	32	71	172	316	479	677

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following table summarises the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases in 1939, there being no case of small-pox, cholera, plague, typhus, relapsing or continued fever, poliomyelitis, ophthalmic necnatorum, polio-encephalitis, encephalitis lethargica, malaria, dysentery or trench fever.

Disease	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	49	48	1
Erysipelas	33	13	Nil
Scarlet Fever	96	91	Nil
Enteric Fever including ) Paratyphoid Fever )	11	8	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	33	7	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	70	39	43
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	11	8	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	34	8	4
Influenzal Pneumonia	6	1	3

REMARKS.(1) Scarlet Fever.

The incidence, 96, was average - the type, mild and sporadic, causing no deaths, and the proportion, 91 out of 96, admitted to hospital is high.

(2) Diphtheria.

The incidence, 49, was a little higher than the low average for several years past, but fortunately the type was mild, and the mortality, one death or 2 per cent, definitely low.

The immunisation campaign, though somewhat interrupted at the commencement of the war, was continued, with the result that 343 children were dealt with, of whom 288 were immunised completely or partially, and 55 were schick negative. While facilities for immunisation were offered to younger children at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, the majority of the children immunised were of the younger school groups. Facilities for immunisation were also offered to all the London evacuee children.

(3) Enteric including Paratyphoid B.

Of the 11 cases, 2 cases belonged to the typhoid group, 9 paratyphoid B. The cases were sporadic with no common source, and in at least 2 cases the infection appeared to have been contracted outside the district. In 2 cases there appeared to be contact infection with another case.



(4) Erysipelas.

Thirty-three cases were notified, 13 being admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

(5) Infectious Diseases of the Central Nervous System.

One case of cerebro-spinal fever was admitted in 1939. In view of the topical interest, it might be stated that we shared, in the spring of 1940, in the national outbreak of this disease, so much dreaded in the war 1914-1918. Thanks to modern treatment, particularly the introduction of chemo-therapy (sulphanilamide and the drug popularly known as 693) all the 28 cases admitted from the military and civil population were discharged fit and well. In 1914 the mortality might have been 60 to 70 per cent.

(6) Influenza, Pneumonia, Influenzal Pneumonia.

The incidence (pneumonia 34                      influenzal pneumonia 6) was slight; also the death rate.

(7) Non-Notifiable Diseases.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps etc.

Judging by the figures obtained in connection with the school medical and maternity services and admissions to the Isolation Hospital, both the incidence and the mortality were slight.

(8) Isolation Hospitals.

The bed accommodation at the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases was temporarily increased after the onset of the war from 70 to 80 beds, and provisional arrangements were made to open up additional accommodation in Hastings and to utilise the Small Pox Hospital for cases and convalescents from one disease only. Fortunately even the ordinary accommodation was never overtaxed in spite of the type of population received in Hastings and district, school and younger children from the evacuation area.

Altogether during 1939, there were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 319 cases, including 68 cases from rural districts; also 43 evacuees and 4 military cases.

All types of infectious cases, including non-notifiable, are admitted, e.g. measles, whooping cough and chicken pox. In addition, the Isolation Hospital was used for a short period as a cleansing centre for evacuee children, and seven cases suffering from scabies or verminous conditions or both were admitted for hospital treatment. No case of Small Pox was admitted.

(9) Vaccination Returns 1938-1939.

Births	--	838
Successful Primary Vaccinations		279
Conscientious Objections		493
Percentage of Births Vaccinated		33.2

This corresponds closely to the low average of children vaccinated during recent years.

(10) Report on Public Health Bacteriological Work, 1939.

This work was carried out in the laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, under Dr. P. Lazarus Barlow, Pathologist to the Hospital, the following being a summary for 1939.

Source of Specimens	Nature of Specimens	No.
A. General Practitioners, Borough Sanatorium, Medical Officer of Health	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	146
	Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	666
	Widal Examinations for Typhoid Group	31
	Miscellaneous	425
B. School Medical Service	Throat Swabs for Diphtheria etc.	45
C. Tuberculosis Dispensary	Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	112
	Miscellaneous	---
D. Municipal Hospital	Miscellaneous	193
Total Specimens examined		1618

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN - Supplies are kept at the Health Department and at Police Stations, and issued on request to the medical practitioners of the town.

6. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. ROYAL EAST SUSSEX HOSPITAL.

During 1939 newcases of syphilis increased from 8 to 10, of gonorrhoea from 15 to 23, but the numbers are very definitely reduced, in fact less than half, as compared with 10 years ago. All facilities for diagnosis and treatment at the Venereal Diseases Clinic are fully available for the military and naval authorities.

Social work has been fully maintained as in previous years.

7. TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) Register.

At the end of 1939, the tuberculosis register contained 539 names made up as follows:- Males, 252, Females, 183 suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis; Males, 45, Females, 59, suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

(b) Notifications, 1939.

The notifications during the year are shown on the prescribed table as follows:-

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths of cases notified			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	11	7	-	2	1	3	-	-
45 - 55 years	14	3	-	-	4	1	-	-
55 - 65 years	13	5	1	-	4	1	1	-
65 upwards	6	7	-	-	2	4	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>109</b>				<b>21</b>			

There was a slight reduction from the previous year in notifications in pulmonary tuberculosis from 106 to 97 and a marked reduction in non-pulmonary tuberculosis from 27 to 12.

(c) Mortality.

The total deaths from tuberculosis were 46 including 3 from non-pulmonary forms, giving a death rate of .69 per 1,000 of the population. This figure maintains the general fall during the past two decades in mortality which has now been more than halved.

(d) Tuberculosis Dispensary etc. at the Royal East Sussex Hospital.

The work at this Dispensary at the Royal East Sussex Hospital which is open three sessions a week has been fully described in previous reports. On the register there are 239 cases who made during the year 856 attendances for the purpose of diagnosis, observation, contact examinations and treatment, X-Ray examinations etc.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 1960 home visits and the following articles were provided for the use of patients:-

Bottles of Disinfectant	..	136
Sputum Mugs and Flasks	..	6
Thermometers	..	20
Throat Sprays	..	3

(c) Institutional Treatment.

The arrangements in use in previous years were fully utilised, the following patients being admitted during the year:-

To Darvell Hall Sanatorium ..	39
" Royal East Sussex Hospital ..	8
" Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey .	2
" Burrow Hill Colony .. ..	1
" Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	2
" Papworth Hall Colony .. ..	1
" Church Army Lads Sanatorium, Health Fld .. ..	1
	---
Total ..	54
	---

In addition, at the Municipal Hospital, chronic, advanced, and occasional early cases, are received for observation and diagnosis.

(f) The Tuberculosis Care Committee.

This voluntary association has functioned in close co-operation with the Local Authority's scheme in connection with the supply of additional nourishment with special vitamin content, viz. milk, butter, eggs; also money grants to families during sanatorium treatment, gifts of clothing, bedding. Thanks to the generosity of the Local Authority and the public, this Committee has been able to carry out all necessary work in this direction.

(g) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken in 1939.

(h) A note of warning.

Towards the end of the last war 1914-1918, and immediately afterwards, there was a sharp rise in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis, the reasons being no doubt complex, but including the lowering of standards as regards food and general living conditions both on service and at home; the effects of reduced ventilation due to the black-out in the home and in the factory; also prolonged hours of work on munitions etc. The tuberculosis services of local authorities, including dispensaries, sanatoria, and care committees should foresee the danger of a similar rise during the present war, and every effort should be made to deal with its prevention at the source as far as present conditions allow.

## 8. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1) Vital Statistics.

(a) Registration of births.

The total births reported in 1939 were 1056, including 36 still births.

(b) Infantile mortality in 1939.

This was based on 757 registered births with 22 deaths of infants under one year, of whom 14 were in the first month, and 8 in the first year of life. The infant mortality was 27 per 1,000 births, actually the lowest yet recorded in Hastings. No less than 15 out of the 22 deaths were due to causes operating before, at, or immediately after birth, e.g. prematurity, congenital malformations, birth injuries etc. There were two deaths from pneumonia, none from bronchitis or gastro-enteritis, fruitful causes of infantile mortality in past years.

(c) Maternal Mortality in 1939.

There was a slight increase, 5 deaths being recorded, yielding a maternal mortality of 5.9 per 1,000 births. The

particulars on death certificates were as follows:-

- Case No. 1. Acute endometritis and Metritis.  
Intra Uterine death of foetus.
- " No. 2. Difficult Labour.  
Hystocia.  
Post partum haemorrhage.  
Acute dilatation of stomach.
- " No. 3. General Peritonitis.  
Miscarriage.
- " No. 4. Termination of pregnancy owing to pulmonary  
tuberculosis with haemorrhage. Toxaemia due to  
suppression of urine.
- " No. 5. Paralytic ileus.  
Miscarriage.  
Pneumonia.  
Scarlet Fever.

Although a rise in one year may be disappointing, the true perspective is over a number of years, and this average shows a maternal mortality slightly below the national rate. It should be noted that all the services, which bear on this problem were fully effective throughout the year, including adequate ante and post natal clinics, the contraceptive clinic on medical grounds, consultants for cases of difficult labour, and for puerperal pyrexia, hospital beds, home help, domiciliary midwives, extra nourishment etc.

(2) Inspection of Midwives etc.

(a) No. of Visits .. ..	53
Midwives notifications ..	137
Other notifications ..	17
Total births notified by midwives .. ..	575

The general results of inspections and the standard of work was high.

(b) Midwives Act, 1936. Domiciliary Midwifery.

	<u>4 District Nursing Assoc- iation Midwives</u>	<u>1 Municipal Midwife</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Cases conducted	310	53	363
2. Post Natal Visits	5256	1056	6312
3. Ante Natal Visits	1368	342	1710

The scheme under which the District Nursing Association undertakes to provide the equivalent of four midwives, and the Corporation employs one Municipal Midwife, continued to work very smoothly in close co-ordination with the general Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the Local Authority.

(c) Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations 1926.

The arrangements for dealing with Puerperal Pyrexia, include hospital beds, consultants, home nursing, full investigations, bacteriological examinations etc. etc. Number of cases notified in 1939 - 33. These included:-

Delayed and Difficult Labour ..	8
Absorption of retained products etc.	6
Breast conditions ..	3
Eclampsia .. ..	2
Albuminuria .. ..	2
Pyelitis .. ..	2
Other conditions .. ..	10
	<hr/>
	33

(3) The Work of the Health Visitors

This is summarised as follows:-

	<u>Home Visits.</u>
First Visits .. .. .	1,118
Second or further visits ..	7,494
Infectious Diseases ..	37
Infant Protection. ..	373
Mental Defectives. ..	274
	<hr/>
Total ..	9,296
	<hr/>

(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

One new district Infant Welfare Centre was opened at St. Ethelburga's Mission Hall, West St. Leonards, at first twice monthly, and then once weekly. But for the war, this centre would no doubt have continued to attract an increasing number of mothers. For the time being, the erection of the two ad hoc maternity and child welfare and school medical service health centres has been postponed.

The total attendances were as follows:-

	<u>Visits.</u>
6 Infant Welfare Centres meeting weekly ..	17,939
3 Ante Natal Centres) meeting and ) twice	709
Post Natal Centres) monthly	100
	<hr/>
Total ..	18,748
	<hr/>

The increase in attendances and general popularity of the clinics was fully maintained. Approximately 70 percent of all expectant mothers are estimated to attend one or other of the ante natal clinics, which also included additional clinics provided by the Municipal Hospital and the District Nursing Association.

(5) Maternity and Child Welfare in relation to evacuation, Sept. 1939

At the commencement of the war, Hastings became an evacuation centre for the reception of some 3,000 London school children, 100 expectant mothers and approximately 1,000 mothers with unaccompanied children.

An emergency maternity home was opened at St. Augustine's Nursing Home with 35 beds, staffed by a medical officer, local midwives and others sent from London. In addition to the billeting scheme for the expectant mothers, two hotels, Crabtree House and Moreton House were opened for cases likely to be complicated and for mothers immediately before and after the confinement.

Three London School Nursing Sisters were allotted for work in the district in connection with the school children and expectant and nursing mothers and their babies. All the <sup>ordinary</sup> clinic services, and staff, of the Local Authority were made available for the London evacuees. In addition special clinics were opened at the Halton and Park View centres twice weekly for children under 5, Ante Natal and Post Natal cases, with in all 922 attendances and 555 medical consultations.

(6) Contraceptive Clinic for Married Women.

New Cases	..	39
Old Cases	..	72
		<hr/>
Total	..	<u>111</u>

(7) Distribution of Milk, Nutritive Foods etc. 1939.

Fresh Milk	..	18,857 pints
Dried Milk	..	856 lbs.
Nutritive Foods	..	2,224 ozs.

(8) Dental Treatment.

Children under school age at School Clinics		26 cases
Expectant and Nursing Mothers at Royal East Sussex Hospital	.. ..	13 cases

(9) Orthopaedic and Light Treatment.

See special note.

(10) Treatment of Toddlers.

All facilities are available at School Clinics, 60 children making 96 attendances.

(11) Anti-Diphtheritic Inoculation (see Infectious Diseases).

Facilities are offered to all children attending Infant Welfare Centres, and these included evacuees as well.

9. MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

The total number of mental defectives on the books of the Local Authority increased from 156 to 163 in 1939. During the year a Mental Health Worker was appointed to assist the Medical Officer of Health in all work, both official and social, concerning Mental Deficiency, and to relieve the Health Visitors and School Attendance Officers who had previously carried out these duties. Her duties were carried out on lines fully described in previous reports as regards Ascertainment, Home Supervision, Home Guardianship, Preparation of cases for Institutional Care, and co-ordination with the work of the Clinic for Nervous Disorders.

No developments have taken place as regards obtaining a joint local institution. The number of cases in Institutions - 59 - shows an increase of 6 on the previous year.

The Occupation Centre for lower grade cases and defectives at the Municipal Hospital, continued to do excellent work. The difficulty as regards premises was solved by the acquisition of the Athelstan Road Open Air School, vacated by the Education Authority. Unfortunately it was necessary, during the present phase of the war, to postpone alterations and entry into the premises.

Co-operation was maintained with the Special School under the Education Authority to ensure smooth passage of lower grade children from one authority to the other and continuous supervision of children after leaving the Special School.

Co-operation is also fully maintained with the weekly clinic for Nervous Disorders at the Royal East Sussex Hospital.

This Clinic continues to develop and the total attendances during the year were

New Cases	..	107
Old Cases	..	507
		-----
Total	..	614
		-----

With the reception of considerable numbers of evacuees in September 1939, it was possible to ascertain, help and re-adjust a certain number of mental defectives who arrived in the district.

10. ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME, 1939.

This scheme deals with the cases of crippling including:-

- (a) Children under school age
- (b) School children
- (c) Cases of Tuberculosis, all ages.

The service includes:-

- (a) Diagnostic clinic and systematic supervision by Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (b) Treatment, provision of appliances, x-rays, light treatment, Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (c) In-patient treatment - short periods, Royal East Sussex Hospital.
- (d) Prolonged institutional treatment including Education at the Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey.

Cases attending clinic at the Royal East Sussex Hospital at 31st December, 1939.

(a) School Medical Service	..	47
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	..	13
(c) Tuberculosis	..	5
		-----
Total	..	65
		-----

New cases during the year.

		<u>Orthopaedic</u>	<u>Sun Ray</u>
(a) School Medical Service	..	53	3
(b) Maternity and Child Welfare	..	20	15
(c) Tuberculosis	..	2	3
		-----	-----
Total	..	75	21
		-----	-----

Total attendances 1939.

Orthopaedic	..	4292
Sun Ray	..	437
		-----
Total		4729
		-----



Cases receiving residential treatment at Chailey, December, 1939.

Tuberculosis ..	3
Other Conditions ..	4
Total ..	<u>7</u>

All cases in attendance at the Orthopaedic Clinic receive after care supervision from the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitors and School Nurses, special attention being devoted to children discharged as no longer requiring treatment, in order to obviate if possible any recurrence of their trouble. The question of prevention of crippling by early diagnosis and the increase of assistance by better food, extra milk, with increased vitamin content and improved hygienic conditions also receive careful attention.

11. GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) Local Acts, Orders, Byelaws, Adoptive Acts.

No additions or amendments were reported in 1939.

(2) Public Health Propaganda.

"Better Health" continued to be issued, with advantage, 2,000 copies each month.

Health Propaganda forms a definite and important part of the daily work of the Medical Staff, the School Dentist, the Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors and School Nurses.

(3) Registration of Nursing Homes.

A thorough inspection in accordance with the terms of the Act and Model Byelaws is carried on by the Medical Staff of the Health Department. Any reports or information dealing with the possible existence of unregistered homes, which should be inspected, are followed up very carefully by the medical staff.

It was not necessary to take any action, nor did any difficulties arise in connection with unsatisfactory homes. Two applications for registration were received and both approved. The total number of nursing homes registered was at the end of 1939 - 25 - the number of patients provided for being as follows:-

Maternity ..	55
Others ..	179
Total ..	<u>234</u>

(4) Water Supply.

The whole of the water supply from deep wells in the Ashdown Sands, and the surface reservoir near Sedlescombe is adequately chlorinated. Work was proceeding on a new undertaking for an additional large surface reservoir at Mountfield, and but for the war this additional supply would have been in use in the near future.

Bacteriological Analysis.

Reports on 4 samples, dated 18th December 1939, from the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London

"This is a very satisfactory sample, clear and bright in appearance, and of a high degree of bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purpose of a public supply".

(5) Baths Establishments.

See reports of years 1936-1938. The results of the chlorination of the sea water used in the three swimming baths were satisfactory.

(6) Drainage and Sewerage.

A considerable amount of inspection and repair work was carried out in individual houses under the control of the Sanitary Inspectors. As a result of the war, the work in connection with the important new sewerage scheme has been temporarily suspended.

(7) Scavenging.

Collection and disposal are in the department of the Borough Engineer. The present system is controlled tipping at Pebsham Farm, the site being labelled for use ultimately as a recreation ground.

The Health Department co-operates in the replacement of sanitary dustbins and generally in the investigation and reporting of any nuisances.

(8) Sanitary Inspection of District.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary of Statistics, 1939.

This table is omitted from the report. The table shows that in all the different items of inspection, work carried out, service and results of preliminary notices; also in legal notices, the standard and output of work was fully maintained and in certain instances shows a considerable increase on previous years.

(9) Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply of District.

Retail Purveyors of Milk on Register, 1939	..	106
Wholesale Traders or Producers, 1939	..	17
Producers of "Accredited" Milk, 1939	..	4
Purveyors of "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited" or "Pasteurised" Milk, 1939.	..	16
Pasteurisers' Licence to sell Milk as "Pasteurised", 1939	..	5
Supplementary Licences, 1939	..	4
Samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli, 1939	..	33
Samples under Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1939	..	188

Samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	34,	one sample not up to standard
Accredited	..	70,	these samples not up to standard
Pasteurised	..	23,	nine samples not up to standard
Raw Milk	..	21	samples all negative to tuberculosis test.

The appropriate action was taken direct through the County authorities. On the subject of Milk the Chief Sanitary Inspector reports:-

"The inspection of dairy farms, particularly before and during milking operations was continued during the year, special attention being paid to the production of milk of a low bacterial content, etc, 139 visits being made in all.

The programme of improvement to the various premises was also proceeded with until the outbreak of war made it difficult to do so.

Substantial improvements were, however, completed to one dairy farm, a licence to produce Accredited Milk being subsequently granted to the occupier.

In another instance the existing buildings were demolished and new premises erected.

Designated Milks.

More interest is apparently being evinced by those concerned respecting these milks; this together with the increased number of licences issued, indicates that the demand is gradually increasing.

Reports concerning the health of cattle are received from Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at prescribed periods. One notification of a scheduled disease in a herd producing designated milk was received. The cow concerned was isolated, all milk from it being stopped until samples were satisfactory".

(b) Meat Inspection.

No action was taken in 1939 with regard to the provision of a Public or Corporation Slaughterhouse. On the outbreak of the war, preliminary arrangements were made which actually came into force early in 1940, for government controlled slaughtering in three private slaughterhouses designated for the whole Borough and a considerable portion of the surrounding district. In this connection the Medical Officer of Health made representations to the Government Department concerned that in view of the concentration of slaughtering, particularly in one small private slaughterhouse, certain improvements should be carried out and this was agreed to.

Practically all animals killed were examined at or soon after slaughtering under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations by a Sanitary Inspector, and appropriate action taken as regards carcasses condemned in part or in whole. The figures are as follows:-

Percentage of cattle, whole or part carcasses,			
affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	12.72%
Percentage of cows, whole or part carcasses,			
affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	25.44%
Percentage of pigs, whole or part carcasses,			
affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	.36%

(c) Shop Acts - Inspection of Food Stuffs, Restaurants etc.

The tables dealing with sundry foodstuffs and fish condemned are not included.

This work was carried out in accordance with the terms of the new legislation, and the appointment of the additional sanitary inspector for the purpose of Shop Acts and other similar legislation continued to be of great advantage.

The tables dealing with the work carried out under the Shop Acts, Merchandise Marks Act, 1924, and the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933. are omitted. The number of shops inspected was 325, re-visited 777, total 1,102 visits.

In 8 cases the contravention warnings were issued by the Watch Committee.

The following note is made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector with regard to the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

"The above Act came into force on the 1st January 1939, the Department being responsible for its administration as from the 27th January 1939.

Briefly, Part 1 regulates the hours of young persons employed in residential hotels, in cinemas and other places of amusement, etc. in certain capacities.

Part 11 amends the Shops Act, 1934.

The number of premises inspected during the year was 21, the number revisited being 62, a total of 83 visits being thus made".

The following is a summary of the work under the

(d) Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Poison Rules, 1852-1933.

No. of Inspections	Contraventions found	Informal notices served	Informal notices complied with	Outstanding
29	5	5	5	-

(e) Merchandise Marks Act, 1887-1926.

No. of Inspections	Contraventions found	Informal notices served	Informal notices complied with	Outstanding
330	87	87	75	12

(f) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts, 1928.

During the year 198 samples were taken and submitted to the Borough Analyst, at the School of Science, Hastings, with the following results:-

Milk. 49 samples taken, 37 genuine, 12 adulterated or below the legal standard. These 12 samples were all from Producers in East Sussex County Districts and the analyses were referred to the County Medical Officer of Health for investigation and necessary action.

As regards samples of other foods and drugs, the following were adulterated:-

- 1 sample Tincture of quinine)
- 1 sample Vinegar, ) in each case the articles
- 1 " Lemonade Powder ) were withdrawn from sale

(10) Factories, Workshops, Work places.

The usual tables are omitted.

Summary of work.

Inspection of Factories etc.	108 visits
Written notices.. . . . .	14
Defects found . . . . .	49
Remedied . . . . .	46
Referred to H.M. Inspector ..	3

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports - "During the year 108 visits were made to premises under the Factories Act, 1937, and as a result of such visits 14 written notices were served.

The matters dealt with by these notices were principally cleanliness, drainage of floors and sanitary conveniences. Three matters were referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories, the others being dealt with by the end of the year".

(11) Camping Sites.

The two main camping sites were discontinued as such on the

onset of the war.

(12) Disinfestation of Houses.

Council houses dealt with	..	13
Other houses	..	21

The methods of dealing with disinfestation by bugs, fully described in previous reports were continued throughout the year.

(13) Disinfecting and Cleansing Station etc.

The arrival of the evacuee school children from London in September, 1939, on the onset of war, caused a definite increase in work, as can be seen from the comparative figures :-

	Children dealt with	
	1938	1939
Scabies	29	180
Verminous	6	408
Clothing disinfected	129	340

At no time did the problem assume unmanageable proportions though it was necessary for a short period to utilise a ward and the disinfector at the Isolation Hospital as an Auxiliary Cleansing Station to ease the pressure.

The amount of disinfection, both at the disinfecting station and in the district and the work carried out by the ambulance and the disinfecting vans show a definite increase owing to the reception of the evacuees. In previous reports I have referred to the unsatisfactory conditions of the disinfection and cleansing station and the necessity of providing fresh premises for this work.

(14) Report on Common Lodging Houses, 1939.

The two registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough are kept under the close supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Both houses were free from notifiable infectious diseases during the year and were kept in accordance with the regulations.

(15) Housing.

The important work of the clearance of the Old Town, partly by Slum Clearance and partly by an improvement scheme, and its rebuilding was inevitably postponed by the onset of the war, as also the other re-housing scheme, e.g. at Rocks Lane.

The usual work of inspection, both under the Housing and Public Health Acts was carried out and after the onset of the war all complaints have been dealt with as received. The tables are omitted.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

HOSPITAL POLICY - MEDICAL ASPECTS.

The Emergency Medical Service - Ministry of Health.

No further action was taken during 1939 with regard to the transfer of the Municipal Hospital under the Local Government Act, 1939, from an Institution to a General Hospital under the Public Health Act or the Poor Law. The numerous improvements

carried out by the Corporation since 1930, the general trend of hospital developments in this country, the relation of the Municipal Hospital to the Ministry of Health War Emergency Medical Services, make this development inevitable, if practicable, at the end of the war.

During 1939, prior to the war, the Ministry of Health was making its arrangements for emergency hospital beds throughout the country, including an exhaustive preliminary survey to determine the normal capacity of each hospital, the additional beds obtainable by crowding or equipping other accommodation, the number of patients who could be sent home or decanted to other areas, the number who could be received by decanting and the beds available within 24 hours. Full arrangements were made in Hastings, the three main hospitals, Royal East Sussex, Buchanan and Municipal as expanded, with a total of some 960 beds (including however in this the chronic and house beds) forming the first line of defence, and a considerable number of convalescent homes with over 800 beds, the second line.

Immediately prior to the declaration of war 350 cases, mainly chronic, were decanted from the London area to Hastings hospitals, and the remaining beds kept in readiness for eventualities. Hastings patients were discharged to their own homes, or in the case of the Municipal Hospital to Battle and Rye Infirmeries.

In the autumn of 1939, the Air Offensive did not materialize and the beds were therefore not required, and in December 1939, in view of existing conditions, the chronic cases were returned to the London Hospitals and the local hospitals for the time being resumed their normal work.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Health, through its Regional Officers and the Medical Officer of Health, continued to examine and revise the local hospital policy. This included a drastic reduction in the number of convalescent homes, and various alterations in the organisation and management of the emergency medical service as a whole.

As regards the normal work of the Municipal Hospital, I would draw attention to the continued rise in the number of confinements, from 200 to 285, a definite proof of the confidence of the public and the popularity of the rapidly increasing maternity department.

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### 13. METEOROLOGY.

The tables have been prepared by Mr. Simmonds, the Borough Meteorologist, and are available for reference.

#### Comparative Sunshine Figures.

Hastings	..	..	..	1812.9	hours
Eastbourne	..	..	..	1791.0	"
Margate	..	..	..	1790.1	"
Dover	..	..	..	1746.5	"
Brighton	..	..	..	1755.2	"
Bournemouth	..	..	..	1681.1	"
Tunbridge Wells	..	..	..	1658.3	"